



March 19, 2013

Senator Gary LeBeau, Co-Chair
Representative Chris Perone, Co-Chair
Commerce Committee, Connecticut General Assembly

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 1131, An Act Concerning Changes to the
Connecticut Historic Home Tax Credit (HHTC)**

My name is John Herzan, and I am the Preservation Services Officer of the New Haven Preservation Trust, the oldest nonprofit historic preservation organization in the state.

Over the last five years, the Trust has held numerous public workshops throughout New Haven on the HHTC. These have been well attended and have generated much interest on the part of homeowners seeking to renovate their properties in a historically appropriate manner, thus adding value not only to their houses but to the surrounding neighborhoods. During this period, 147 New Haven homeowners have applied for and received the credit. This process can be cumbersome, often requiring individual applicants to work through a broker. **The proposed changes would allow individuals to apply on their own and take the credit on their CT income tax return. We feel that this change will encourage more applications and thus enable more investment in our community.**

Many homeowners have not been able to take advantage of this program because of the current minimum project amount of \$25,000. **Lowering the qualifying minimum to \$15,000 per unit will make the credit available to homeowners in lower income ranges.**

Conversely, **increasing the credit maximum to \$50,000 per unit/application for nonprofit corporations which specialize in affordable housing will help these organizations tackle difficult revitalization projects in the inner city, thus reducing blight and stabilizing neighborhoods.**

For these reasons the New Haven Preservation Trust strongly supports H.B. 1131. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this proposal.